

# Reading between the Lines

## Part A

The answers to the following questions can be found in Chapter 5 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. Who usually makes the fire in Bee's tribe? Circle the correct answer. (p. 35)

Snore of the Rat

Sneeze of the Aurochs

Bent Tree

Knotted Mane

2. How does Bee know the legend of Human's First Fire? (p. 35)

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3. What was the name of the first human to make fire? (p. 36)

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4. In the days before the first fire was made, where did tribes get their fire from? (p. 36)

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5. How did humans make fire for themselves for the first time? (p. 37)

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6. Who are the members of Bee's own special tribe? (p. 38)

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7. 'I wake up shaking. Why am I here, in this cave, alone? Did the Sky Spirits lead me here? Was the red sun an omen for me? A warning? I should never have complained about plucking feathers.' (p. 40) How do you think Bee is feeling during this part of the story? Explain your answer.

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8. Why does Bee 'shudder all over'? (p. 40)

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9. Do you think at first Dog thinks that the noises are coming from their own tribe? What makes you think this? (p. 40)

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10. Why do you think that Bee doesn't go and talk to the people in the tribe that she sees?

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## Part B

The answers to the following questions can be found in Chapter 5 of 'How to Skin a Bear'.

1. Why does Bee feel that she and Snapping Stick are similar? (p. 36)

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2. Find two phrases in the text on p. 36 which describe how Bee reacts when she thinks about her dad.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Find two things that the tribe in the story thought would happen to them if they had no fire. (p. 37)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

4. In the fire song, what do you think is meant by the line: 'Now the fire needs to eat'? (p. 38)

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5. How does Bee feel when the fire goes out? (p. 39)

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6. Is it likely that the people from the other tribe can see Bee? Explain your answer. (p. 40-41)

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7. Describe the homes of the people from the other tribe. Include as much detail as you can in your answer. (p. 41)

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8. Why do you think Bee watches 'in horror' as the girl feeds grain to a sheep? (p. 42)

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9. Which word tells you that the cow being rolled on the tree branches is dead? (p. 42)

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10. Which word would you choose to sum up how Bee is feeling at the end of this chapter?  
Explain your answer.

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★ Challenge Task ★

Can you predict how what Bee saw in this chapter with the 'strange tribe' might affect her life in the future? Write down your ideas on what will happen later in the story.

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# Reading between the Lines Answers

## Part A

1. Who usually makes the fire in Bee's tribe? Circle the correct answer. (p. 35)
  - *Bent Tree*
2. How does Bee know the legend of Human's First Fire? (p. 35)
  - *Bee knows the legend of Human's First Fire because her dad has told her this story many times.*
3. What was the name of the first human to make fire? (p. 36)
  - *Snapping Stick was the name of the first human to make fire.*
4. In the days before the first fire was made, where did tribes get their fire from? (p. 36)
  - *Before the first fire was made, tribes collected their fire from trees that had been struck by lightning.*
5. How did humans make fire for themselves for the first time? (p. 37)
  - *Humans made fire for themselves for the first time by rubbing a stick on flat wood.*
6. Who are the members of Bee's own special tribe? (p. 38)
  - *The members of Bee's own special tribe are Bee and Dog.*
7. 'I wake up shaking. Why am I here, in this cave, alone? Did the Sky Spirits lead me here? Was the red sun an omen for me? A warning? I should never have complained about plucking feathers.' (p. 40) How do you think Bee is feeling during this part of the story? Explain your answer.
  - *Example answer: I think that Bee feels lonely and that she misses her tribe. She is feeling unsure about life because she is asking lots of questions about how she has ended up alone in the cave. She is also feeling regretful as she says that she should never have complained about plucking feathers.*
8. Why does Bee 'shudder all over'? (p. 40)
  - *Bee shudders all over because she looks at the pile of bones.*
9. Do you think at first Dog thinks that the noises are coming from their own tribe? What makes you think this? (p. 40)
  - *Example answer: I think that Dog thinks the noises are coming from their own tribe at first, because it says that 'Dog grins at me, his eyes shining'. This shows that he is*

*happy. He probably thinks that they are about to find their tribe again.*

10. Why do you think that Bee doesn't go and talk to the people in the tribe that she sees?
- *Example answer: I think she doesn't see the point in approaching them as it would waste time and she needs to get on and find her own tribe.*

## **Part B**

1. Why does Bee feel that she and Snapping Stick are similar? (p. 36)
  - *Bee feels that she and Snapping Stick are similar because they each had the lowliest job in their tribe.*
2. Find two phrases in the text on p. 36 which describe how Bee reacts when she thinks about her dad.
  - *Accept 'a knot inside my stomach tightens' and 'my eyes become a little wetter than usual'.*
3. Find two things that the tribe in the story thought would happen to them if they had no fire. (p. 37)
  - *Accept any two answers from: They would starve, they would freeze, they'd be dead before the summer.*
4. In the fire song, what do you think is meant by the line: 'Now the fire needs to eat'? (p. 38)
  - *I think the line means that more wood needs to be added for the fire to burn.*
5. How does Bee feel when the fire goes out? (p. 39)
  - *Example answer: Bee isn't happy that the fire has gone out. She forces a smile when she is talking to Dog to try and keep her spirits up.*
6. Is it likely that the people from the other tribe can see Bee? Explain your answer. (p. 40-41)
  - *It isn't likely that Bee will be seen by the other tribe because it says that she walks 'soft as a whisper' and peers 'from the safety of the bushes'.*
7. Describe the homes of the people from the other tribe. Include as much detail as you can in your answer. (p. 41)
  - *The homes are bigger than the tents Bee's tribe use. They are a pointed shape. The walls are made from mud and wood, instead of animal skins, and the roofs are covered with sticks and twigs. They do not look to Bee as if they can be moved.*

8. Why do you think Bee watches 'in horror' as the girl feeds grain to a sheep? (p. 42)

- *Example answer: Bee has never seen a human feeding a sheep before. She is shocked that the girl gives her food to the sheep instead of eating it herself and wonders why the girl would do this.*

9. Which word tells you that the cow being rolled on the tree branches is dead? (p. 42)

- *The word 'carcass' tells you that the cow is dead.*

10. Which word would you choose to sum up how Bee is feeling at the end of this chapter? Explain your answer.

- *Example answer: I would choose the word 'determined' to sum up how Bee is feeling at the end of this chapter. I would use this word because Bee says 'I have to find my tribe' and then she explains to Dog that they won't find their tribe by sitting there.*

★ ★  
★ Challenge Task ★

Example answer:

*I think that Bee will tell her tribe about the things she saw the strange tribe do and her tribe will copy the ideas. They will build better houses, grow their own vegetables and farm animals so that they can stay in one place.*